

## Some Chlamydia Become Chlamydophila

The bacterial genus “Chlamydia” has long been known to contain a diverse group of organisms. Recently, taxonomists announced that the genus was being split and that some common organisms would be getting new names.

- ❖ *Chlamydia trachomatis* is staying with the old genus and is not being renamed.
- ❖ *Chlamydia pneumoniae* and *psittaci* are being moved to a new genus: Chlamydophila!

So their new names are:

- ❖ *Chlamydophila pneumoniae* and *Chlamydophila psittaci*

It is very frustrating when familiar organisms receive new names. So why does it happen?

Taxonomist's jobs are to ensure that organisms are "catalogued" correctly. It has been known for a long time that the genus Chlamydia contains organisms that are not closely related. They have studied the 16sRNA sequences to determine if a more logical rearrangement is possible. Once a rearrangement is decided upon, then the new names are provided to the medical community.

Another recent change has been to combine three similar viruses that cause abrupt-onset nausea/vomiting/diarrhea to the genus Norovirus. Norovirus includes Norwalk and Norwalk-like viruses, caliciviruses, and Small Round Structured Viruses (SRSV).